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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1.

a. Geological studies revealed that in a prior period perhaps three thousand years ago the Amu Darya River flowed into Sarykamyshskaya Kotliva ais and found its way to the Caspian Sea. However, since the Amu Darya has cut its present channel, the entire area south and west of it is most arid and by and large composed of sand. The soil appears to be very rich and capable of considerable agricultural yield.

2. In order to provide water for this fine but arid soil [] plans for a network of canals. These canals were to be completed as three independent operations - each operation was referred to as a "Variant".

a. In Variant I, it was proposed to dredge and clean out the Kunya Darya and construct a canal south from Sarykamyshskaya Kotliya to Krasnovodsk. Within the first Variant it was also planned that the river bed of the Ruslo Orboya, south of Gory Bol'shey Balkhan would be dredged and cleaned.

b. Variant II, Glavniy Variant [Chief Variant].

(1) It was proposed that the Unguz River would be dredged and cleaned from the Amu Darya at Deynau west until it joined the Rualo Ozboya.

c. Variant III.

(1) The Kelivaki Sohros, a dry river bed, would be dredged and a

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canal constructed and joined to the Margab River at Bolshevik. From Bolshevik a continuation of this canal would be extended north on the Margab River all the way to Kolodets Mirza Charle where it would connect with the Unguz River canal.

d. The Zeravshansky Canal.

- (1) The plan also included a canal from Ak-Rabat (east bank of Amu Darya) to Gishduvan.

3. No work was begun on any of these canals until the end of World War II. From gleanings various types of Soviet literature that the Soviets completed Variant I by 1951.

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4. Importance of the Projected Canals.

- a. One of the major economic problems of Ferghana and Central Asia is to develop the cotton industry of the region. The primary obstacle is, of course, lack of sufficient water.
- b. In an average year the USSR produces 2,100,000 tons of cotton. Of this amount Central Asia USSR produces approximately three million tons. Agricultural specialists of the Soviet Union maintain that once the first Variant is completed Central Asia USSR can double her cotton output and produce another three million tons per year.
- c. Every 50 years the water level of the Caspian Sea is lowered 50 centimeters. By turning the waters of the Amu Darya into the Caspian Sea via Variant I, the additional water would cut the shrinkage to some degree - but not entirely.
- d. A factor of utmost importance relative to the development of Variant I, is that it would provide a continuous water route transportation from Moscow to Samarkand, From Moscow to the Caspian Sea via the Volga River. From Krasnovodsk via the Uzboy Canal to the Kuna Darya canal which would join the Amu Darya at Ak-Rabat. From Ak-Rabat to Gishduvan via the Zeravshansky Canal. From Gishduvan to Samarkand via the Zeravshan River.
- e. The Amu River is by and large melkaya voda shallow water. Its average depth is 75 centimeters. The Amu also carries considerable sand and silt - consequently vessels which draw over 75 centimeters cannot navigate this river. Much of the Amu is dredged at least once a year and sometimes twice. As a result it was deemed cheaper to construct a canal parallel to the Amu from Cherdashou to Kerki. Plans were drawn for its construction.
- f. Relative to the Unguzki Variant, the Unguz river bed cuts the Markhun Oblast in half - most of this region is sandy, although a few spots are free of sand. For two or three months of the spring season much of the area is very green because of the growth of sedge, carex, and other grasses.
- g. One of the chief reasons for the canal which would connect Krasnovodsk with Termez via Kerki is due to the proximity of the Ashkhabad railway to Iran. In many places this railway is less than two hundred meters from the Iranian border. The Soviets reasoned that in the event of war this line could be repeatedly cut by saboteurs who could readily slip over the border into Iran. The Soviets felt that the proposed canal would be sufficiently distant from the border (that it could be protected), and that since excellent railway facilities tied Termez to Samarkand, such a water route would serve to keep supplies flowing constantly.

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5. The following dams were completed by 1932:

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1. This project was completed by 1932. The dam is 40 kilometers long, and 25 meters wide at the top. Water can be backed up at the rate of 25 cubic meters of water per second. Much of the dam is earth fill. However, the major structure which is located at Karabekaul is concrete. The waters controlled at this point are used primarily for the growth of cotton.

- b. Sultan-Bent /about 50 miles southeast of Mary in Turkmen USSR/. This dam was completed in 1932 and controls the waters of the Murgab River. It contains about 120 meters of concrete. It stands eight meters high and is about three meters wide at the top. The bottom of the dam is 15 meters wide. The primary purpose for the construction of the dam at Sultan-Bent was to retain the high late spring waters and provide sufficient water for the farms south of Sultan-Bent.

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